

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented) A method for stabilizing a closed circular DNA molecule in a formulation, comprising:

adding citric acid or tartaric acid, or a salt thereof, to an aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA and atelocollagen, and

lyophilizing the solution.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA further comprises a cationic lipid, a cationic polymer or a hydrophobic polymer.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the amount of citric acid or tartaric acid is not less than 1 % w/v of the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA.

40. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the amount of citric acid or tartaric acid is not less than 1 % w/v of the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA.

41. (new) A method for stabilizing a closed circular DNA molecule in a formulation, comprising:

adding atelocollagen to an aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA and citric acid and/or tartaric acid, or a salt thereof, and

lyophilizing the solution.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA further comprises a cationic lipid, a cationic polymer or a hydrophobic polymer.

43. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the amount of citric acid or tartaric acid is not less than 1 % w/v of the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA.

44. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the amount of citric acid or tartaric acid is not less than 1 % w/v of the aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA.